

and a new brass lectern was also placed there. All of the metalwork was made by Messrs. Jones and Willis of Birmingham. Mr. Robert Fogerty, architect, designed the alterations and he also supervised all of the work carried out.

The Savings Bank

The Limerick Savings Bank was founded in 1820, in order to encourage and to facilitate saving by the less well-off members of society. In 1839 it leased land in Upper Glentworth Street from the Earl of Limerick. W.H. Owen was engaged as the architect of the proposed new building. He designed a Doric Temple made of limestone. Four fluted Doric columns support an entablature and pediment topped by its acroterion.

The Workhouse (Now part of St. Camillus' Hospital)

In 1838, the provisions of the Poor Law Act were extended to Ireland. The contract to build the workhouse in Limerick was awarded in September, 1839 to Sir Thomas Deane & Co., and was opened in May, 1842. It is a Tudor Gothick revival building. The gables are pointed and there are pointed arches over the upper windows. There is a hood moulding over the door and a drip moulding over the windows.

Thomond Bridge and the Toll House

Around the year 1210, King John of England, ordered the building of a bridge at Limerick and the cost of this structure is generally believed to have been £30. It is uncertain whether or not this bridge lasted until 1838, but in that year the building of the present bridge began. The design of the new bridge is very plain and strong but the architects, who were the Paine brothers, allowed their imaginations full play with the toll house situated at the city end of the bridge opposite King John's Castle. The design is the romantic Gothick of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, and the result is a miniature tower house topped with crenellations and an imitation machicolation. In a real castle the machicolation was a defensive feature which enabled defenders to drop stones or boiling oil on the heads of attackers.

The Railway Station

Charles Vignoles was the engineer and William Dargan was the contractor for the Waterford and Limerick railway. In 1848 regular service opened between Limerick and Tipperary; the Tipperary to Clonmel section of track

was completed in 1852 and by 1854 the line was almost to Waterford. The station building at Limerick was first used in 1858. The architect of the station is unknown but it is possible it may have been Sancton Wood. Wood (1814-1886) was the English architect who designed Kingsbridge Station, (Heuston) Dublin. He designed all the stations from Monasterevan to Limerick Junction and all except Limerick Junction is Gothic. The drawings for the station at the Junction is dated 6th June, 1849. So Wood was in the area at the time when the building of the station at Limerick was in the air; Wood preferred the classical to the Gothic style and the station is classical.

It is a two storey building of seven bays. The last two bays at both ends of the facade are slightly advanced. The central three bays on the ground floor are rusticated but the present doors are modern. Architraves surround the windows and two decorated iron gas lamps still stand outside the main doors.

The O'Connell Monument

On 15th August, 1857, the statue to O'Connell was unveiled in the presence of a very large crowd which included the Mayor, Dr. Kane, and the Earl of Dunraven. It is eight feet high, made of bronze and stands on a granite pedestal. John Hogan (1800-1858) was the sculptor and he was given £1,000 for his work.

St. John's Cathedral

The building of this cathedral coincided with the Gothic revival of the mid-nineteenth century. It was not simply a continuation of the romantic Gothick of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century; it was a completely new departure. It owed much to many sources of influence. For example, antiquarianism, nationalism, the search for emotive appeal; the greater re-stressing of ritual and therefore emphasis on all of the decorative and visual elements going with ritual. The Oxford movement and the re-establishing of the English Catholic hierarchy also played their part in the Gothic revival.

One of the most influential architects of the revival was Augustus Welby Pugin (1812-1852). In many of his designs he used early English Gothic; it was economical as it did not require tracery for the windows. This style is sometimes called the lancet style. It was seen as suitable for remoter areas which could not afford a great deal to spend on churches. Pugin felt that native materials should be used and he was also of the opinion that nothing must be hidden behind plaster. This led to a new appreciation of different textures and colours. And so we see many of these